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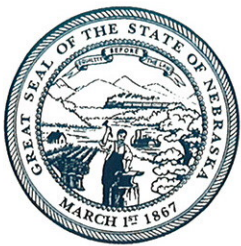
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Bruning to Investigate NU  
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**Office of the Attorney General**

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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEDIA ADVISORY  
June 30, 2005, 7:10 a.m. CDT

CONTACT:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***  
**Attorney General Bruning to Hold News**  
**Conference at 11:00 a.m. CT TODAY**

Attorney General Jon Bruning will hold a news conference at **11:00 a.m. CT today, Thursday, June 30**, in Room 2115 at the State Capitol in Lincoln.

The Attorney General will discuss his intention to launch an investigation with the Nebraska State Patrol into circumstances surrounding the 2004 campaign finance violations of an elected public official.

For a live audio feed, dial 866-247-0709 and code 402-471-2682 at the prompt.

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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 30, 2005, 11:00 a.m. CDT

CONTACT:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

## **Bruning to Investigate NU Regent's Campaign Finance Violations**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced his intention to launch an investigation with the Nebraska State Patrol into circumstances surrounding the 2004 campaign finance violations of University of Nebraska Regent David Hergert.

Bruning said, "I want to be very clear that this is not a witch hunt. Our goal is to create a comprehensive record for the people of Nebraska about exactly what happened and determine whether or not violations occurred."

The Attorney General said investigators will be in Scottsbluff within the week to begin interviewing individuals affiliated with Hergert's election campaign. Bruning hopes to complete the investigation in three to four months.

Hergert, a Mitchell, Neb., businessman, has been fined \$33,512 in civil penalties by the Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission for campaign finance violations.

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**JON BRUNING**

ATTORNEY GENERAL

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 29, 2005, 2:45 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:

Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

## **Bruning Joins 43 Attorneys General in Demanding Answers Following Security Breach at CardSystems Solutions Inc.**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that he has joined 43 other Attorneys General in sending a letter to CardSystems Solutions Inc. demanding answers after approximately 40 million credit card holders had personal information compromised in a security breach.

Attorney General Bruning said, "This is the latest in a string of security breaches that are affecting consumers who, through no fault of their own, are now at risk for becoming victims of identity theft. It's only right that a company step up and take responsibility by notifying their customers."

The Attorneys General called on the Atlanta-based company to immediately notify all affected consumers and provide them (the Attorneys General) with the following information:

- The total number of consumers impacted by the security breach in each state;
- An explanation of how the breach occurred and the steps the company is taking to mitigate the consumer injury caused by the breach, including their efforts to notify affected consumers; and
- An outline of the plan the company has developed to prevent the reoccurrence of such a security breach and a timeline for implementing that plan.

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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 29, 2005, 2:00 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

## **Bruning Unveils New Online Consumer Vulnerability Survey**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today unveiled a new online consumer vulnerability survey at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us) designed to determine whether Nebraskans are at low, moderate or high risk for becoming victims of fraud.

Bruning said, "This survey is another tool we will use to help Nebraskans fight against fraud, scams and identity theft. There are a lot of people who may not realize that something as simple as carrying their Social Security Card or ATM PIN puts them at higher risk for becoming a victim."

Consumers who click on the home page icon are asked a series of 10 yes or no questions and are immediately given a ranking of their vulnerability. They are also referred to a series of brochures available on the Web site that offer tips on how to protect themselves from everything from identity theft to sweepstakes fraud.

The Attorney General offered consumers the following tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud:

- Before giving out any personal information, find out how it will be used and if it will be shared with others. Many companies will allow you to decline having personal information used for marketing purposes or shared with other companies.
- Never give credit card, bank account or social security numbers over the phone, especially to people you don't know.



- Use a secure browser when shopping on the Internet. Look for the “lock” icon on the browser’s status bar to ensure that your personal and financial information is secure.
- Photocopy the front and back of every license, credit card, insurance card, etc. that you carry in your wallet. If your wallet is lost or stolen, you will have all the pertinent contact information at your fingertips.
- Don’t be a victim of high-pressure sales tactics. Ask for information to be sent in the mail. This will give you the time and information you need to prepare a list of questions and make an informed decision. Most legitimate businesses will be happy to oblige.
- Always check your credit card bills for unauthorized charges. Report them to the credit card company immediately.
- Beware of sweepstakes, chain letters, foreign letters and other scams. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Get written estimates and references for any significant product or service purchases. Be sure you understand the company’s product return and customer satisfaction policies.
- Shred all unwanted credit card offers or other documents that may contain personal information before throwing them away. Trash can be treasure for identity thieves.
- Watch your credit. Nebraskans are eligible to receive one free credit report every year as part of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act. Credit Report Forms can be obtained via the Federal Trade Commission’s Web site at [www.ftc.gov/credit](http://www.ftc.gov/credit). Additionally, the three nationwide consumer reporting companies have set up a central Web site, [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com); toll-free telephone number, 877-322-8228; and mailing address, Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

For more information, visit the Attorney General’s Web site at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us).

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*An audio clip featuring comments from the Attorney General is now available at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us).*



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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 28, 2005, 3:55 p.m. CT

CONTACT:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

## **Bruning Announces Sentence for Convicted Child Sexual Predator in Dakota County**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that convicted child sexual predator Harry J. Mastne of Dakota City has been sentenced to 12 to 20 years in prison for molesting four girls between the ages of 6 and 12.

Mastne, a 55-year-old former foster parent and daycare provider, plead guilty to four counts of sexual assault of a child on Feb. 22, 2005. He will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

Bruning said, "Child sexual predators are the worst of the worst offenders. The Nebraska Department of Justice will continue to do everything in our power to put them behind bars where they belong."

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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 27, 2005, 5:20 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

## **Bruning Announces Conviction Against Former Deputy Cheyenne County Attorney**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced that former Deputy Cheyenne County Attorney Gregory C. Lauby pled guilty and was convicted of first degree sexual assault today.

Lauby, 57, faces one to 50 years in prison for the Class II felony. The charge stemmed from Lauby having sex with a 13-year-old Denver, Colo., girl in January 2005.

Attorney General Jon Bruning said, "The fact that this man was a trusted public servant when he committed this crime makes the case even more disturbing. The Nebraska Department of Justice will continue to vigorously prosecute any individual, regardless of their position, who harms a child."

Sentencing has been set for 9:00 a.m. MT Sept. 6.

Criminal Bureau Chief Don Kleine assisted Sheridan County Attorney and Special Prosecutor John Freudenberg with the case.

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*An audio clip featuring comments from the Attorney General is now available at  
[www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us).*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 24, 2005, 2:00 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

## **Bruning Directs Staff to Fly Westward Airways**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today directed his staff at the Nebraska Department of Justice to fly Westward Airways whenever possible.

Westward Airways, which is based in Scottsbluff, makes two round-trip flights daily to/from Scottsbluff, Lincoln and Omaha. The fares for the flights typically end up costing less than standard mileage reimbursement rates.

Attorney General Bruning said, "This is about saving valuable tax dollars and supporting Nebraska-based business. Not only will flying Westward Airways save our attorneys a great deal of time, it will also save the state money that would otherwise be spent on mileage and hotel rooms. I hope other state agencies will follow suit."

The Nebraska Department of Justice routinely provides assistance to county attorneys across Nebraska with prosecutions, especially in cases that require special expertise. The office also appears to defend cases against the state and assists local officials with open meetings and public records issues.

In 2004, the Attorney General's Office handled approximately 600 cases in 81 Nebraska counties.

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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 15, 2005, 9:30 a.m. CDT

CONTACT:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

## **Bruning Announces Conviction in Online Child Enticement Case**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that his office has obtained a conviction against an Internet predator in Omaha.

Attorney General Bruning said, "This is the third online enticement conviction we have obtained against an Internet predator in the last month, and we have no intention of stopping here. Every time we bring one of these deviants to justice, we send a message to would-be predators that this state will not stand idly by while they target our children."

Steven A. Liston, 33, was convicted of one count of online enticement of a child, a Class IIIA felony punishable by up to five years in prison and/or \$10,000 in fines, by a Douglas County jury.

In July 2004, a Nebraska State Patrol investigator with the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit posed as a 14-year-old girl in a Yahoo! chat room where contact was initiated by the defendant. Liston initiated a sexual conversation with the investigator and asked to meet the presumed 14-year-old at an apartment complex in LaVista for the purpose of engaging in sex. He was arrested upon his arrival.

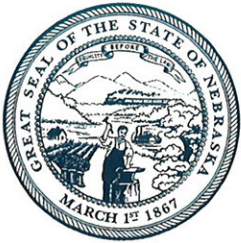
Sentencing has been set for Tuesday, Aug. 30.

The case was handled by Assistant Attorney General Corey O'Brien.

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*An audio clip featuring comments from the Attorney General is now available at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us).*





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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Jon Bruning  
Guest Column: June 10, 2005  
Contact: Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

**Livestock Bait and Switch Scheme Circulating**

It's one of the oldest tricks in the book. Bait consumers with promises of exceptionally low prices, and then switch them to a higher-priced and sometimes lower-quality product.

While bait and switch schemes have been around for generations, con artists continually find new ways and venues in which to perpetrate their scams. The latest version we've seen in the Nebraska Department of Justice is a bait and switch scheme involving cattle from Boone County, Mo.

Complaints have been lodged with our office regarding the advertisement and representation of cattle of particular breeds and ages with alleged confirmed health records. Sellers of the cattle are requiring up-front payment for the specific cattle represented to the prospective buyers. However, buyers were delivered cattle that were different than those originally represented and of substantially lower quality.

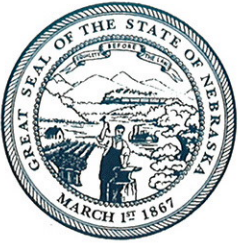
Nebraska law prohibits deceptive trade practices, including bait and switch schemes, and the Attorney General's Office will investigate complaints as we receive them. So far, at least two private parties have successfully obtained civil judgments against the alleged perpetrators of this particular bait and switch scheme. However, obtaining a court judgment or initiating an action under the Consumer Protection Act and the Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act will not necessarily result in recovering the losses incurred.

Cattlemen can protect themselves from this and similar schemes by keeping the following tips in mind:

- Obtain the purchase agreement in writing and be certain that all relevant information is incorporated into the agreement. For example, if it is important to you that the cattle that are represented to you are the cattle you actually receive, you may insist that a list of various identification information be attached to the purchase agreement (brands, tags, health certificates, etc.).
- When dealing with a seller that you are unfamiliar with, you may insist on delivery and inspection prior to payment. Alternatively, if the seller insists on payment prior to transportation, you may want to negotiate taking possession of the cattle at the seller's facility at the time of payment and arrange for transportation yourself.

- Ask for and follow up on references of sellers that you are unfamiliar with.
- Check with the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, the Better Business Bureau, the Nebraska Department of Agriculture or other relevant consumer protection agencies in the state where the seller is doing business to determine whether complaints have been filed against the seller's business for deceptive trade practices.

For additional information or to file a complaint, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 800-727-6432, 402-471-2682 or visit us online at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us). En Espanol, 402-471-3891 o llamada gratuita, 888-850-7555.



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**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 9, 2005, 10:25 a.m. CT

CONTACT:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

## **Attorney General Bruning Files Defense of Marriage Amendment Appeal**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today filed the state's appeal of Judge Joseph Batallion's decision on Nebraska's Defense of Marriage Amendment.

Attorney General Bruning said, "As promised, the Nebraska Department of Justice will vigorously pursue an appeal in this case. We look forward to having another day in court and defending Nebraskans' right to amend their constitution as they see fit."

The case will be heard by the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals.

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*An audio clip featuring comments from the Attorney General is now available at  
[www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us).*